

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 DHA-02 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8448

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON ANGOLA: TOUGH IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL

1. JANUARY 6 IZVESTIYA CARRIES TOUGH FRONT-PAGE
EDITORIAL ENTITLED "ANGOLA'S JUST CAUSE." ACCORDING TO
IZVESTIYA, "SPLITTIST GROUPLETS" FNLA AND UNITA,
THOUGH THEY ARE "FORMALLY" AGAINST LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT,
ARE "IN FACT SHIELDS" FOR IMPLEMENTING AGGRESSION OF
"INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALIST FORCES." AFTER PASSING
REFERENCE TO "NEARLY 40" STATES WHICH RECOGNIZE NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT AND TO ALLEGED INCREASE IN REASONABLE APPROACH
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BY "RESPONSIBLE WESTERN ACTIVISTS" DESPITE ZORZA AND

MOYNIHAN, IZVESTIYA THEN FACES CHARGES OF "SOVIET THREAT" AND CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SOVIET ACTION AND DETENTE HEAD-ON AND CLAIMS FIRMLY THAT DETENTE AND "STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM AND APARTHEID, DEFENSE OF AND RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY OF YOUNG INDEPENDENT STATES" ARE PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE. CONCLUSION IS POSITIVE BUT CONDITIONAL NOT TO OAU SUMMIT: "PROGRESSIVE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION JUSTIFIABLY EXPECTS OAU TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENCE OF PRA SOVEREIGNTY."

2. COMMENT. IZVESTIYA PIECE READS LIKE A PARTIAL CORRECTIVE TO SPECULATION THAT PRAVDA JANUARY 3 UNSIGNED EDITORIAL SIGNALS SOVIET BLINK ON ANGOLA. IT REITERATES POSITIVE APPROACH TO OAU EFFORTS AND CONTAINS NO DIRECT MENTION OF COALITION ISSUE, BUT IT TARS FNLA AND UNITA ORGANIZATIONS (AND NOT JUST LEADERS) AS TOOLS OF IMPERIALISM, AND IT CLEARLY REASSERTS SOVIET ARGUMENT FOR USSR'S (AND CUBA'S) RIGHT TO INTERVENE. THE PIECE DOES NOT EXCLUDE EITHER COALITION OR CESSATION OF SOVIET (AND CUBAN) INTERVENTION, BUT IT OFFERS ABSOLUTELY NO ENCOURAGEMENT IN EITHER AREA, AND BY IMPLICATION AT LEAST POINTS RIGIDLY IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION--THE STATUS QUO--IN BOTH.

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Message Attributes

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